

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THOEDANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

TREASURY

USSAGE NP

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 110353

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:MAY 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. REUTER SAIGON REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING FRIDAY AS,GVN
ARMORED CARS AND INFANTRY MOVED TO RECAPTURE POSITIONS
AT EDGE OF "IRON TRIANGLE", JUST OVER 20 MILES NW OF SAIGON,
ACCORDING MILITARY SOURCES. SOURCES SAID THEY WERE
ABOUT TWO MILES FROM NEAREST OF THREE GOVT. POSITIONS
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TAKEN BY COMMUNIST FORCE THAT SWEEPED DOWN TO RIVER
LAST WEEK.

2. AP VIENTIANE REPORTS -INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES"

SAYING THAILAND HAS WITHDRAWN LAST OF ITS MERCENARY TROOPS FROM LAOS, ENDING MORE THAN 10 YEARS OF DIRECT THAI MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN LAOS. SOURCES SAY LAST THAI SOLDIERS WERE FLOWN WEDNESDAY FROM LONG CHENG ABOARD US-CHARTERED AIRCRAFT, 13 DAYS AHEAD OF JUNE 4 DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS UNDER PEACE ACCORDS (WP, NYT; NYPOST 5/24). WP CITES DOD SOURCES THAT US PILOTS AND MILITARY ADVISERS ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE BY JUNE 3; ADDS THAT NVN REPORTEDLY HAS MORE THAN 40,000 TROOPS ON LAOTIAN SOIL, MOSTLY ALONG HO TRAIL.

3. NYPOST'S GARRETT REPORTS WIVES OF TWO SEA MIAS SENT DOD MORE THAN 900 DOLS OF HUSBANDS' PAY THURSDAY AND SAID THEY WILL KEEP RETURNING WEEKLY PAY CHECKS PENDING "ACCOUNTING" OF THE MEN. BOTH WIVES ACCUSE ADMIN. OF DOING LITTLE TO PRESSURE INDOCHINA GOVTS. INTO ACCOUNTING FOR "AT LEAST 55, MAYBE UP TO 100" MIAS (NYPOST, 5/23).

4. HASC APPROVES BY VOICE VOTE BILL THAT WOULD PERMIT SON OF LAOTIAN GEN. VANG PAO TO ATTEND WEST POINT. DEM. REPS WILSON (CALIF.) AND SCHROEDER (COLO.) OBJECTED, ARGUING THAT "MANY OF OUR OWN BRAVE MEN HAVE DAUGHTERS WHO CAN'T GET IN" (WP).

THAILAND

5. AF SEC. MCLUCAS ARRIVES IN BANGKOK TO EXAMINE USAF FACILITIES. US MILITARY SPOKESMAN SAYS MCLUCAS ON TOUR OF EA AF INSTALLATIONS, WILL VISIT SOME OF SIX US AIR BASES IN THAILAND DURING HREE-DAY STAY (REUTER BANGKOK).

6. AP BANGKOK REPORTS SANYA SAYING HE WILL RECONSIDER RETIREMENT FROM POLITICAL LIFE IN RESPONSE TO URGING BY THAI LEADERS AND PUBLIC (SUN- PHINQ; NYPOST, UNCLASSIFIED

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BALTO N-A 5/23). NYT'S MARKHAM, IN BANGKOK, SAYS SANYA WILL GIVE ANSWER FRIDAY. ADDS THAT "NO AMBITIOUS THAI POLITICIAN" WANTS TO STEP INTO "CARETAKER PREMIERSHIP," WHOSE DUTIES WILL EXPIRE AFTER CONSTITUTION IS ADOPTED, ELECTIONS HELD AND NEW GOVT. FORMED, PROBABLY AT YEAR'S END.

PHILIPPINES

7. US AGREEMENT WITH GOP TO FINANCE M-16 RIFLE ASSEMBLY PLANT IN PHILS (REUTERS WP; CSM) IS FOLLOWED BY SIGNING OF 15 MILLION DOLS, LOW-INTEREST, LONG-TERM LOAN TO DEVELOP PROVINCIAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS. LOAN

TO BE AUGMENTED BY 750,000 DOLS GRANT TO PROVIDE
CONSULTANTS TO LOCAL WATER ADMINISTRATORS (AP CSM.
NYPOST 5/23)

JAPAN

8. LAT'S JAMESON, IN TOKYO, CITES AF SEC. MCLUCAS'
COMMENT THAT "SITUATIONS COULD ARISE" IN FUTURE CAUSING
US TO URGE THAT JAPAN ASSUME EA DEFENSE ROLE. ASSERTS
REMARK CONSTITUTED "RARE PUBLIC DEPARTURE FROM OFFICIAL
AMERICAN POLICY THAT THE US DOES NOT -- AND SHOULD
NOT -- ENCOURAGE JAPAN TO THINK ABOUT DISPATCHING TROOPS
ABROAD" (BOSTON GLOBE, 5/23)-

9- REUTER'S MACKENZIE, IN TOKYO, DESCRIBES RAZING
OF SEDATE, WHITE-WALLED US CHANCERY TO MAKE WAY FOR
12-STORY REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURE. NEW OFFICE
BLOCK, DUE FOR COMPLETION IN MID-1976, WILL BE LARGEST
US EMBASSY BUILDING IN WORLD, HOUSING SOME-700 EMPLOYEES
CURRENTLY SCATTERED AMONG 7 BUILDINGS. CITING EMBASSY
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING OLD CHANCERY'S STYLE, AGREES THAT IT
ADDED "TOUCH OF SERENITY TO BUSY CORNER OF TOKYO, AND MANY
ARE SAD TO SEE IT GO." DOCUMENT

RECOVERED FROM CORNERSTONE OF OLD CHANCERY SAYS US
MISSION HAS BEEN ON SAME SITE SINCE 1888. NEW CHANCERY
WILL COVER 3.2 ACRES, WITH MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM,
CAFETERIA AND GARAGE FOR 72 CARS -- "IMPORTANT FACTOR
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IN CROWDED TOKYO." BUT "ONE THING NO ONE IS TALKING
ABOUT: WHETHER ANY HIDDEN MICROPHONES HAVE BEEN FOUND
IN THE OLD BUILDING."

10. NYT'S HALLORAN, IN TOKYO, FINDS "CITADEL" OF
JAPANESE BUSINESS -- FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS --
-- IS UNDER HEAVY ASSAULT. FOR PAST YEAR,
MAJOR BOMBARDMENT HAS COME FROM JCP THAT HAS CHARGED
KEIDANREN WITH FOSTERING "ALL SORTS OF SOCIAL EVILS
AND MANIPULATING CONSERVATIVE POLITICS." ENVIRONMENTALISTS
HAVE ACCUSED IT OF FAILING TO STOP POLLUTION, AND
CONSUMERS HAVE CONDEMNED IT FOR ALLOWING PRICES TO
LEAP. EVEN FAIR TRADE COMMISSION -- USUALLY "DOCILE
AND UNWILLING TO ENFORCE JAPAN'S WEAK ANTITRUST LAWS" --
HAS SUDDENLY BEGUN JOUSTING WITH BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS
ON PRICE-FIXING, CARTELS AND PROFITEERING; AND RUMBLES
OF DISCONTENT HAVE COME FROM WITHIN KEIDANREN STAFF
ITSELF -- COMPLAINING THAT FEDERATION FAILED TO ANTICIPATE
OIL CRISIS AND FAILED TO REACT PROMPTLY WHEN IT HIT.
AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, KEIDANREN IS CHANGING GUARD,
BUT NEW LEADER, DOKO, WHO IS 77, PROMISES NO DEPARTURES,
NO RADICAL CHANGES, NO YOUTH MOVEMENT. JAPANESE

BUSINESS IS CLOSE TO LDP, AND DOKO DOES WANT TO MOVE IT BIT AWAY FROM PARTY.

11. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY REPORTS GOJ-SUBSIDIZED ANALYTICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FABRICATED 36 REPORTS LAST YEAR ABOUT RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS AT JAPANESE PORTS VISITED BY US NUCLEAR SUBS; SAYS, IN FACT, PROPER MONITORING TESTS WERE NOT MADE. AGENCY SAYS IT HAD CHECKED REPORTS AFTER DIET DISCLOSURE ABOUT CHEMICAL INSTITUTE'S FALSIFICATION OF SUCH REPORTS IN 1972 (CSM).

12. SUN'S SEIDEN, IN TOKYO, REPORTS TV CAMPAIGN BY GOJ AND RICE DISTRIBUTORS TO ENCOURAGE JAPANESE TO EAT MORE RICE AND LESS BREAD IS EFFORT TO LIMIT GROWING DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOODS, PARTICULARLY US WHEAT.

13. IN TOKYO, JOC'S CULLISON REPORTS NEW WARNINGS BY MITI OFFICIALS TO BUSINESS AND UNION LEADERS THAT ANY
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FURTHER PRICE AND WAGE INCREASES WILL CUT DEEPLY INTO NATION'S EXPORTS.

14. SHARPLY ATTACKING INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST LAST WEEK, OHIRA TOLD DIET FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FRIDAY HE HOPES INDIA WILL PURSUE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BECAUSE BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MAINTENANCE OF ASIAN PEACE. AS TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH DELHI, OHIRA SAID TOKYO "WANTS TO CONSIDER THIS AFTER ASCERTAINING INDIA'S ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC POLICIES HEREAFTER."

CHINA

15. IN CBS WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP, DON WEBSTER FROM HK SAID REMOVAL OF MARINE GUARDS FROM USLO WILL "APPEAR AS MAJOR INSULT TO US" IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES, AND LATEST EVIDENCE THAT US-PRC RELATIONS ARE "DEFINITELY COOLING". GUARDS IN PEKING WORE CIVVIES AND WERE SPECIALLY CHOSEN, SPEAK MANDARIN AND HAD SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OF PROTOCOL. WEBSTER NOTES THAT MARINES ARE AT "SUCH EMBASSIES AS MOSCOW AND SOUTH VIETNAM." NEXT QUESTION IS, "WILL THE US TAKE SOME SORT OF RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST THE CHINESE MISSION IN WASHINGTON?" REUTER STORY OF MARINE WITHDRAWAL MAKES NO MENTION OF RETALIATION, BUT SAYS OBSERVERS IN PEKING REGARD PRC ACTION AS "SNUB TO THE AMERICANS." NOTES STRONG HINTS IN PAST CHINESE WERE UNHAPPY OVER MARINE PRESENCE; ONE BONE OF CONTENTION WAS "RED-ASS SALOON" IN MARINES' APARTMENT WHICH BECAME FOCUS FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE IN FOREIGN COMMUNITY.

CHINESE COMPLAINED OF NOISE AND LIQUOR SALES, AND CLUB CLOSED.

16. AP TAIPEI (PHINQ, BALTO N-A MAY 23) CITES CNA REPORTING THAT WALL POSTERS IN A KWANGTUNG COMMUNE ACCUSED CHOU OF BEING "A SWINDLER LIKE LIN PIAO AND HIS ILK;" ONE POSTER SAYS "OPPOSE CHOU EN-LAI'S POLICY OF TOADYING TO FOREIGNERS." QUOTING "INTELLIGENCE REPORTS," CNA ALSO REPORTS THAT KWANGTUNG AREA POSTERS ATTACKING CONFUCIUS CARRIED SKETCHES OF CONFUCIUS UNCLASSIFIED

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DONE IN CHOU'S LIKENESS.

17. HEARST'S BARNETT IN REPORT DATELINED WASHINGTON (BALTO N-A MAY 23) CITES "AMERICAN AUTHORITIES" THAT THEY HAVE "NO PARTICULAR INDICATIONS" CHOU IS IN ANY POLITICAL TROUBLE DESPITE HIS ABSENCE FROM RECENT STATE FUNCTIONS. THEY ACCEPT CHOU'S ANNOUNCED EXCUSE THAT HE NEEDS TO SLOW DOWN BECAUSE OF AGE AND HEALTH, AND TEND TO BELIEVE CHOU'S WITHDRAWAL

FROM SOME ACTIVITIES IS VOLUNTARY AND NOT RELATED TO ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN.

18. IN 10-MINUTE TAPE-RECORDED CONVERSATION WITH HIS PRESS SECRETARY IN ANNAPOLIS, GOV. MANDEL IN SHANGHAI SAYS "THE RECEPTION WE HAVE GOTTEN FROM THE PEOPLE HAS BEEN JUST WONDERFUL.- HE WAS "TOTALLY AMAZED" BY FRIENDLINESS OF PEOPLE AND HUGE CROWDS; HIS "GREATEST GIMMICK" IS TO TAKE POLAROID PICTURES OF CURIOUS CHINESE AND GIVE THEM AS PRESENTS. "WE DO NOT HAVE THE SURVEILLANCE AND WE DO NOT HAVE THE CONSTANT FEELING OF BEING WATCHED OR SURVEYED OR PURSUED" THAT HE HAD DURING HIS USSR TRIP IN 1971, MANDEL ADDS (SUN).

19. REPORT FROM MOSCOW OF USSR RESTRICTING PRC USE OF SOVIET WATERWAYS THROUGH NEW REGULATIONS CALLING FOR PRIOR NOTIFICATION BY CHINESE OF SHIP PASSAGE IS WIDELY FEATURED (AP WP, NY POST; UPI CHITRIB; PHINQ; NYT'S HEDRICK SMITH). AT ISSUE IS USE BY CHINESE VESSELS OF SOVIET INLAND WATERWAYS NEAR Khabarovsk AS ALTERNATE ROUTE WHEN CHINESE WATERWAYS IN AREA BECOME TOO SHALLOW FOR NAVIGATION IN DRY PERIODS. STATEMENT DELIVERED BY SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY TO CHINESE CHARGE SAID SOVIETS "ALWAYS RECEIVE FAVORABLY" CHINESE REQUESTS TO USE SOVIET INLAND WATERWAYS CONNECTING THE AMUR AND USSURI RIVERS NEAR Khabarovsk, WHEN KAZAKEVICHEV STREAM, WHICH RUNS ALONG THE BORDER, GETS TOO SHALLOW FOR SHIPS IN THE SUMMER. "THE SOVIET SIDE SEES NO DIFFICULTIES

IN THE SOLUTION OF THE PASSAGE OF CHINESE VESSELS...IF
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THE CHINESE RETURN TO THE POSITIONS OF RESPECT OF
THE SOVIET SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
OF THE SOVIET UNION." REPORTS NOTE SPECULATIONS
ON RELATIONSHIP OF USSR STATEMENT TO PRC'S DETENTION
OF COPTER AND LONG-STANDING SINO-SOVIET TERRITORIAL
DISPUTES.

20. WP STAFFERS REPORT LEADER OF SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY
DELEGATION NOW IN WASHINGTON SAYING PROGRESS TOWARD
SINO-SOVIET RECONCILIATION HAS UNFORTUNATELY BEEN
EXTREMELY SLOW; -IT'S NOT THE FAULT OF THE SOVIET
UNION THAT (TALKS) ARE DRAGGING ON," HE ADDS.

KOREA

21. ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED IN TOKYO, ROKG
HAS ARRESTED TWO MORE PROMINENT CHRISTIANS -- PROF.
KIM CHAN-GRUK AND REV. MISS CHO WHA SOON -- ON UNANNOUNCED
CHARGES (WP).

22. EIGHT TOP SK BUSINESSMEN LEAVE FOR US SATURDAY
TO BEGIN THREE-WEEK TOUR AIMED AT PROMOTING US-
KOREA TRADE(AP,NYPOST 5/23)-

23. WP'S MACKAYE HAS PROFILE ON REV. CHAI CHOON
KIM, "FRAIL 72-YEAR-OLD KOREAN CLERGYMAN,- WHO HAS
"EMERGED IN RECENT WEEKS AS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE
ADVOCATES IN KOREAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD" OF OVERTHROW
OF PARK REGIME. TRAVELLING ABOUT US AND CANADA,
KIM HAS ARGUED THAT KOREAN CHRISTIANS HAVE DUTY
NOW TO WORK FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC TRADITION
IN THEIR COUNTRY.

24. NK FM HO DAM MET WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH ZAIRE
PRES. MOBUTU TO WHOM HE DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM KIM
IL SUNG (AFP, WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

VIETNAM

25. WP'S JACK ANDERSON CITES UNRELEASED STUDIES
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BY INDOCHINA RESOURCES CENTER AND AFSC THAT US TAXPAYERS
NOW PAYING 86 PERCENT OF COST OF MAINTAINING GVN
AND THAT SAIGON MAY BE DEPENDENT ON US AID FOR
REST OF CENTURY. STUDIES WARN THAT SVN-S ECONOMY

"IN THE MANNER OF A HEROIN USER," IS ADDICTED TO US AID, CITE CONFIDENTIAL WORLD BANK STUDY THAT SAIGON WILL STILL REQUIRE 770 MILLION DOLS A YEAR IN 1980 AND 300 TO 450 MILLION DOLS IN 1990. LOOKING BEYOND 1990, WORLD BANK CLAIMS "SAIGON WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN AID-- IN SHORT, STUDIES CONTEND THAT GVN IS "ARTIFICIAL STATE," KEPT AFLOAT BY US TAXPAYER GENEROSITY. BIGGEST DRAIN ON SVN ECONOMY, STUDIES CHARGE, IS CORRUPTION, WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLIONAIRES WHO TOGETHER COULD PAY GVN'S BILLS "EACH YEAR FOR A DECADE HENCE."

LAOS

26. S-N'S ARBUCKLE (MAY 23) IN VIENTIANE QUOTES "WELL-INFORMED SOURCES" THAT LAST OF THAI IRREGULARS LEFT LAOS YESTERDAY. US OFFICIALS STILL ARGUE AMONG THEMSELVES WHETHER THAIS - RTA UNITS AND IRREGULARS - WERE ANY GOOD. BUT ARBUCKLE DECLARES THAT "IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, LAOS COULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT THE THAIS TO FILL THE GAPS IN THE FRONT LINES." CITES US OFFICIAL AS EXPLAINING THAT "IF THERE ARE TROOPS IN A POSITION, NO MATTER HOW GOOD OR BAD

THEY ARE, THE ENEMY COMMANDER MUST TAKE THEM INTO HIS CALCULATIONS."

JAPAN

27. JOC SAYS IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE, US AND ABOUT 20 INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS WILL AGREE IN PARIS NEXT WEEK TO AVOID NEW TRADE RESTRICTIONS FOR A YEAR. NEED NOW IS FOR PREVENTIVE MEDICINE - TO MAKE SURE THAT INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS DO NOT FRAGMENT THEIR RANKS INTO BLOCS WHICH WOULD THEN GET INVOLVED IN NASTY LITTLE TRADE WARS. TOKYO DISPATCH TO JOC TUESDAY INDICATED THAT THIS IS PROSPECT UNCLASSIFIED

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HAUNTING JAPANESE IN PARTICULAR; NOT NECESSARILY DISTURBING TO US BECAUSE EXPORTS CONTINUE HIGH. TOKYO WANTS END TO ALL EXPORT CAMPAIGNS, AS WELL AS TO CURTAILMENTS OF IMPORTS. MOREOVER, JAPANESE DELEGATION IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE THAT EVERYONE AGREE TO STOP EXTENDING CREDIT IN FORM OF DEFERRED PAYMENTS FOR EXPORT ITEMS AT RATES MUCH BELOW 7 PERCENT PER YEAR. NEVER BEFORE HAVE LEADING TRADING NATIONS AGREED TO COMMON FLOOR ON INTEREST RATES OFFERED AS INDUCEMENTS TO EXPORT SALES, ALTHOUGH ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO LIMIT NUMBER OF YEARS IN WHICH REPAYMENT MUST BE MADE. DAY MAY COME WHEN SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMMONPLACE, BUT IT DOES NOT

APPEAR TO BE AT HAND YET. RUSH

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